THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 19th January 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Applications for loans by agriculturists for sinking wells, etc.

* 175 *Q*.—SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there is great delay in the disposal of applications for loans by agriculturists for sinking wells, etc.; and

(*b*) if so, what action is proposed to be taken for the speedy disposal of such applications?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"(*a*) & (*b*) It is possible that there have been some cases of delay. Instructions have already been issued to the Collectors and the special staff urging on them the importance of prompt disposal of applications."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"Are the Government aware that there is considerable delay in sinking these wells and the sinking is not expedited?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"The hon. Member would have seen the Press Note to-day. Even for the current year out of one crore fifty lakhs nearly one crore was disbursed up to the end of December and the other 50 lakhs will be disbursed by the end of this month. With reference to the previous year's work is practically complete except in the case of Ceded Districts accelerated scheme and a portion of the 1947–48 scheme for which some extension is given."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"Are these wells expected to be dug by the 31st March 1949."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Last year's scheme will be completed in the current year in good time before perhaps September because the actual construction will be in summer."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Have the Government taken into account the difficulty of securing materials for the completion of wells in time?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"That is the reason why extension is being granted from time to time."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I saw some announcement recently that Government have got some machine by which a well could be dug in three days."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" The gentleman concerned was with me yesterday and he has undertaken to demonstrate the experiment somewhere near Madras and the hon. Members and Hon. the President can also see the experiment."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Where is it that the experiment will be conducted? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" I will see that it is informed to all the gentlemen concerned."

Applications from the West Godavari district for subsidy to sink wells.

* 176 Q.—SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications have been received from the West Godavari district for subsidy to sink wells under the " Grow More Food Scheme " for the years 1947–48 and 1948–49;

(b) how many of the above are from the Dendulur firka;

(c) the number of wells for which subsidy has been granted;

(d) whether it is a fact that many of the wells could not be finished in time as the subsidy was disbursed late; and

(e) whether the Government propose to give extension of time for the completion of the works?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (a) The number of applications received from the West Godavari district for subsidy to sink wells under the Grow More Food Schemes is 179 under the New Well Subsidy Scheme, 1947–48 and 603 under the 1948–49 scheme.

" (b) The number from Dendulur firka is 128 under the 1947–1948 scheme and 196 under the 1948–49 scheme.

" (c) The number of wells for which subsidy was sanctioned under the 1947–48 scheme is 18. The applications received under the 1948–49 scheme have not yet been disposed of. The special staff have been instructed to dispose of all pending applications quickly.

" (d) & (e) The subsidy amounts were disbursed in February and March 1948 but the applicants had time till 30th September 1948 to complete the wells. Further extension of time till 30th June 1949 has however since been granted."